

From: Curtis Garrison
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Facts to keep in mind

Microsoft owes everyone, not just the schools, for their abuse of maintaining a monopoly. Here are a couple of examples in which I was personally impacted:

- Several times up until a couple years ago, I wanted to purchase a Dell, Compaq or Micron computer primarily to use as Linux servers if not for other reasons that put me in the position of NOT wanting a Microsoft related license. I had no choice but to continue to buy the computers with MS Windows of some sort since it was a violation for the vendors to sell me a customized or "blank" computer. The only other choice I had was to build my own computer out of parts which was not what I wanted to do considering the reliability I needed from a vendor and my experience and abilities to do this.

- During the browser wars of Netscape and Internet Explorer, there were many web sites (StarTrek.com for example) that would only allow you access if you used Internet Explorer. This cost me time to download and install this software when I was perfectly fine with Netscape. This was imposed on me and also further cost me in hard disk space usage at a time when it was not as cheap as it is today.

- In the mid 90's I was on a committee at Nortel and we evaluated Novell and Windows NT as possible Network Operating System Solutions. Microsoft held stiff penalties over our heads regarding licenses overall such as on the 60,000 Microsoft Office licenses we had to have. If we did not make the choice to go to their platform, we would not be looked at favorably when it came to further license arrangements for Office, etc... They also emphasized to us that Novell was on their way out as their technology was destined to be outdated and limited. This cost several people training options and career directions that they were in the middle of pursuing and stagnated developments in that industry unless it was Microsoft related.

These are just a few examples of how I am many many people were personally effected with Microsoft's continued abuse of their monopoly. If this is not resolved in a manner that is legit and more beneficial to the public, I am sure that there are very many people like myself that would be disappointed and not satisfied. I already have feelings that someone is being bought out or influenced in an unethical way simply in light of these Microsoft proposals even being considered. I implore you to make sure the right thing is done to help correct things by taking some action that will help realign the balance in the industry some what accordingly and/or compensate the

public for Microsoft's actions.

Imagine the growth in the technical sector if all of a sudden tens of thousands of small developers and related businesses could get funding and support if they didn't have to worry about the hopeless idea of trying to compete against Microsoft.

Thank you -
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